Integrative Cancer Research Workspace
Translational Tools Special Interest Group
Mission Statement
DRAFT

The opportunities /needs we address:
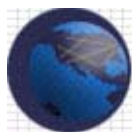The Translational Tools Special Interest Group is focused on:
- Tools and technologies which are necessary for cancer centers to integrate clinical data with experimental data, as well as experimental design tools that provide assistance to biomedical investigators embarking on translational research methodology
- Assuring that clinical data and studies more effectively utilize genomics and proteomics research data in cancer research and patient care
- Creating guidelines to aid in the design of experimental studies

What we are doing/will do to address these needs:
- Data integration and sharing are critical to translational studies and this group will focus on approaches to these issues the best address the end-users' needs
- The Translational Tools SIG will begin collaborations between developers and adopters to deploy current translational tools to facilitate data integration and provide platforms for iterative tools development
- The need for interoperability of translational tools with other caBIG ICR SIGs and domain workspaces requires developers and adopters to create or adopt metadata standards for SNPs, proteomics, expression profiling, and develop structured vocabularies to uniformly describe patients' or subjects' phenotypes, and the samples derived from them, across research organizations and institutions
- The Translational Tools SIG will work closely with Strategic Level and Cross Cutting working groups to incorporate common architectures, CDEs and structured vocabularies to assure translational tools are extendible across the caBIG community
- Translational Tools SIG will explore various technologies and methodologies to enable the translational researcher to gain more understanding about study design and allow consultations with biostatisticians and study designers to be more productive and interactive

The principles/beliefs that guide our work:
- It is appreciated by the Translational Tools SIG that many of the experimental design factors cannot be automated using computer-based tools and that experts in biostatistics and experimental design need to be an integral part of creating new translational studies
- Issues that are common to undertaking a translational research study include having the correct numbers of patients, subjects, slides and biological samplings to assure that statistical measures have the power to explore the hypotheses being tested by the designed study
- Protection of patient confidentiality is a fundamental requirement for tools and data developed within this SIG